

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 84-20

AN ORDER REQUIRING

TOSCO CORPORATION, AVON REFINERY, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM DISCHARGING WASTES CONTRARY TO REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter called the Board), finds that:

1. Tosco Corporation, Avon Refinery, hereinafter the discharger, discharges wastes from its oil refinery into Suisun Bay. On May 15, 1979, the Board reissued NPDES Permit No. CA0004961 as Order No. 79-49 which prescribed waste discharge requirements for the discharge.
2. The requirements of Order No. 79-49 provide in part as follows:

"A. Effluent Limitations

1. The discharge of Waste 001 which contains constituents in excess of the following limits is prohibited:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>30-Day Average</u>	<u>Maximum Daily</u>
BOD(5-day, 20°C)(A)	lb/day	1320	2370
	kg/day	600	1080
Total Suspended Solids(B)	lb/day	1060	1660
	kg/day	480	750
....	....	....	....
Ammonia Nitrogen	lb/day	720	1580
	kg/day	327	718
....	....	....	....

(A) Incremental over intake water.

(B) Incremental over intake water from Hastings Slough used to purge canal.

2. The following allocations attributable to runoff and ballast which is treated and discharged as part of Waste 001 shall be added to the effluent limitations specified for Waste 001. The allocations below shall be calculated by the method specified in Section B of the Self-Monitoring Program.

ADDITIONAL POUNDS (KILOGRAMS) OF POLLUTANT PER THOUSAND  
GALLONS OF FLOW TREATED AND DISCHARGED AS PART OF WASTE 001

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>STORM RUNOFF</u>		<u>BALLAST</u>	
	<u>30-day Average</u>	<u>Maximum Daily</u>	<u>30-day Average</u>	<u>Maximum Daily</u>
5-day 20°C BOD	0.21 (0.0953)	0.40 (0.181)	0.21 (0.0953)	0.40 (0.181)
Total Suspended Matter	0.17 (0.077)	0.26 (0.118)	0.17 (0.077)	0.26 (0.118)
Chemical Oxygen Demand	1.6 (.726)	3.1 (1.41)	2.0 (.907)	3.9 (1.77)
Oil and Grease	.067 (.0304)	.126 (.0572)	.067 (.0304)	.126 (.0572)

5. In any representative set of sample Waste 001 as discharged shall meet the following limit of quality:

The survival of test fishes in 96-hour bioassays of the effluent shall be a 90 percentile value of not less than 50 percent survival.

B. Receiving Water Limitations

2. The discharge of wastes shall not cause the following limits to be exceeded in waters of the State in any place within one foot of the water surface:

d. Un-ionized ammonia: 0.025 mg/l as N, Annual Median  
0.4 mg/l as N, Maximum"

3. The discharger's self monitoring reports indicate recurring violations of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) during the past four winters. Discussions with the discharger indicate the reliability of their biological wastewater treatment system is not adequate. Major repairs to the rotating biological contactors have become necessary on an annual basis. In addition, violations of ammonia and toxicity limits have occurred as a result of inadequate operation of an ammonia recovery unit.
4. The discharger has a history of violations of effluent limitations for suspended solids and toxicity which have been related to inadequate operation of their biological wastewater treatment system. Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 78-016 was issued on August 24, 1978 and Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 79-006 was issued on April 5, 1979 as a result of the violations. The Orders were rescinded on December 27, 1979 based on compliance with the provisions.

5. The Board's staff notified the discharger of their concern regarding recent violations of effluent ammonia, toxicity, BOD, and TSS limitations in correspondence dated February 8, 1984. The discharger was requested to submit a report proposing corrective action they would implement to prevent future violations.
6. The discharger informed the Board in a letter dated February 24, 1984 and in a meeting on March 8, 1984 of its intent to implement corrective measures to eliminate future violations of ammonia and toxicity limits. In addition, they advised that repairs are currently being performed on their rotating biological contactors similar to repairs in past years. Effluent monitoring has demonstrated that these past repairs have not been adequate to assure full and consistent compliance with discharge requirements.
7. The discharger recently informed the Board in a letter dated March 16, 1984 of a mechanical upset which again resulted in violations of their ammonia effluent limit on March 10, and 11, 1984.
8. Conditions and monitoring results described above indicate the discharger is continuing and threatening to continue to violate the requirements listed in Finding 2 above.
9. The Board on May 16, 1984, after due notice to the discharger and other affected persons, conducted a public hearing at which the discharger appeared and evidence was received concerning the discharge.
10. The Board finds that this action is an order to enforce waste discharge requirements previously adopted by the Board. This action is therefore categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15121 of the Resources Agency Guidelines.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Tosco Corporation, Avon Refinery, cease and desist from discharging wastes contrary to the requirements contained in Order No. 79-49 as listed in Finding 2 of this Order. Compliance shall be achieved in accordance with the following specifications:

- A. The discharger shall comply with Effluent Limitation A.1 (BOD and Total Suspended Solids), and A.5 (Toxicity) of Order No. 79-49 forthwith.
- B. The discharger shall comply with Effluent Limitation A.1 (Ammonia Nitrogen) and Receiving Water Limitation B.2 in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>	<u>Report of Compliance Due</u>
1. Install automatic ammonia diversion system in the ammonia recovery unit	by June 1, 1984	by June 15, 1984

2. Reroute drainage from flare by June 1, 1984 by June 15, 1984  
knock-out pots to the foul  
water feed tanks
3. Achieve full compliance by June 1, 1984 by June 15, 1984
- C. The discharger shall submit a report, prepared by a registered engineer by August 1, 1984 which evaluates the effectiveness and reliability of the wastewater treatment system to comply with requirements and recommends measures and an implementation time schedule necessary to improve the reliability of the wastewater treatment system to assure full and consistent compliance with the requirements contained in Order No. 79-49 as listed in Finding 2 of this Order.
- D. The Board intends to amend this order to include a time schedule for facilities determined to be necessary as a result of the evaluation required in C. above.
- E. If the Executive Officer finds that the discharger has failed to comply with provisions of this Order, he is authorized after approval of the Board Chairman, to request the Attorney General to take the appropriate enforcement action against the discharger, including injunction and civil monetary remedies, if appropriate.
- F. If the Executive Officer determines that the provisions of this Order are violated and does not refer the matter to the Attorney General, he is instructed to report to the Board the reasons that the discharger has been unable to comply with the provisions of this Order.
- G. The Board will consider rescission of this Order after the discharger has demonstrated 90 days of consistent compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order and Order No. 79-49.

I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on May 16, 1984.

ROGER B. JAMES  
Executive Officer